

through tonight, Wednesday—sun-
ny, high near 90. Yesterday—3 p.m.
air quality index: 90. Temperature
range: 85-45. Details are on Page C2.

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File FUDWED

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TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1977

Phone

Ex-CIA Aide, 3 Cuban Exiles Focus o

By Bob Woodward

Washington Post Staff Writer

A former CIA explosives expert and three Cuban exiles will soon be sought by federal authorities for questioning in the investigation of last year's Embassy Row bomb-murder of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier, according to informed sources.

Edwin P. Wilson, the former Central Intelligence Agency operative, and the three Miami-based Cuban exiles came to the attention of federal officials when they learned that Wil-

son was under FBI investigation in an unrelated assassination plot abroad.

Wilson allegedly sought to recruit the three Cubans to kill a political opponent of the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Qaddafi, last year, according to the sources.

Wilson heads a small consulting firm here called Consultants International. It is involved in the arms export business. Wilson was out of the country yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

In reviewing information developed in the Libyan investigation of Wilson, investigators have established these

possible connections with the Letelier case:

- Wilson had a secret contract with the Libyan government to provide detonation devices called "timing pencils"—a tube filled with chemicals that can be remotely controlled to trigger explosions. Such a "timing pencil" is believed to have been used to detonate the bomb that exploded beneath Letelier's car.

- The three Cuban exiles arrived in the Washington area just three days before the Sept. 21, 1976, bombing of Letelier's car.

- One of the Cuban exiles, an ex-

plosives expert believed to have been trained by the CIA in the 1960s, met in Miami recently with a close associate of other Cuban exiles who have been chief suspects in the Letelier case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene M. Propper, who is in charge of the Letelier investigation, met with CIA officials last week and asked for all files and information on Wilson and the three Cubans, the sources said.

The three Cubans are not among the 10 anti-Castro Cubans who have reportedly been questioned already by the grand jury investigating the Letelier murder.

Md. Prison Bill Voted in Last Seconds

By Harold J. Logan
and Donald P. Baker

Washington Post Staff Writers

ANNAPOLIS, April 11—With seconds remaining in the life of the 1977 Maryland General Assembly, its leadership forced through legislation to finance the conversion of an abandoned Continental Can Company factory in Baltimore into a new 890-inmate state prison.

As the legislature's midnight deadline approached, State Senate Presi-



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simply not made public. The problems for international number-gatherers are awesome.

"We use official figures, but if you read the analyses closely we usually manage to hint what the delicate areas are," said Eric Calcagno of the Buenos Aires office of the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America.

Ex-CIA Aide Focus of Letelier Inquiry

LETELIER, From A1

meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, according to the sources.

Upon learning of this, the CIA requested the FBI open an investigation of Wilson. This case was so sensitive that President Ford was personally informed of it.

Wilson's contract with Libya included a promise to supply thousands of timing pencils. "It is one of the most alarming things I've ever seen," one source said. "There were enough [timing pencils] contracted for to support terrorist activity for the rest of the century."

The Libyan government has in the past supported terrorist activity. At a news conference last July 19, President Ford said, "We do know that the Libyan government has in many ways done certain things that might have stimulated terrorist activity."

In addition, the sources said that there is some evidence that Wilson may have had contact with one or

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reliable; national budgets are rarely considered to be much more than wishful thinking.

The few exceptions include Venezuela and Brazil, both of whose economies are strong enough to be bragged about. Even there, however, most diplomats feel that the number of

books.

A two-car electric train between Arica, Chile, and Tacna, Peru, carries mainly the "packeters" or small-time smugglers, according to the Tacna customs officers. "Well, it isn't very much, and they're none of them rich," shrugged one guard.

Of course, his livelihood may de-

Between coups, reliable statistics continued to be as elusive as the thousands of emerald-smugglers who officially do not exist in Colombia. An informant in Bolivia once asked to be paid for a particularly tantalizing bit of data: the true size of the national debt. It remains a closely guarded secret.

more current CIA employees who have access to supplies of timing pencils.

It is not clear from the investigation how many, if any, timing pencils Wilson actually supplied to the Libyan government.

The sources said Wilson also tried to recruit other former CIA employees to be explosives instructors in Libya.

One former CIA employee was offered \$100,000 a year but turned it down. Wilson himself had contracts valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars with Libya, according to the sources.

Wilson has declined to answer questions from FBI agents in the Libyan investigation, the sources said.

Consultants International is located at 1425 K St. NW. An official there said yesterday that the firm was not involved in any questionable activity.

According to the firm's own promotional literature, Consultants International could supply an army with equipment including patrol boats, par-

achutes, airborne accessories and armor-protected vehicles.

"Armaments can be arranged to meet the requirements of the purchaser," the literature says.

Sources said that Wilson had a contract with Libya to clear land mines but the contract was the "cover" for the real purpose of supplying detonation devices.

"Explosive detection devices" are one of the items on the firm's sales list.

Wilson's firm has received numerous licenses from the State Department Office of Munitions Control to export arms related material though no license has been granted to export any thing to Libya, according to government records.

Letelier, 44, former Chilean ambassador to the United States, was foreign minister and minister of defense in the government of the late Chilean Socialist President Salvador Allende.

At the time of his death, Letelier headed a foreign affairs research pro-

gram at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington. A staff member of the Institute, Ronni K. Moffitt, also died in the explosion. Her husband, Michael, a research associate, survived the blast.

Ben Weiser assisted in the reporting of this article.

Meeting Set on Supports For '76 Peanut Crop

Associated Press

A public meeting will be held May 5 to hear recommendations for setting price support differentials on last year's peanut crop. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland announced yesterday.

Price differentials are used by the Agriculture Department to take into account differences in value among types and grades of peanuts when making price support loans to producers. Bergland said he wants representatives of peanut farmers and the industry to work out "a unified recommendation" before the meeting.

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